

# SALTON SEA TEST BASE

SOUTHWEST DIVISION NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND



# FACT SHEET

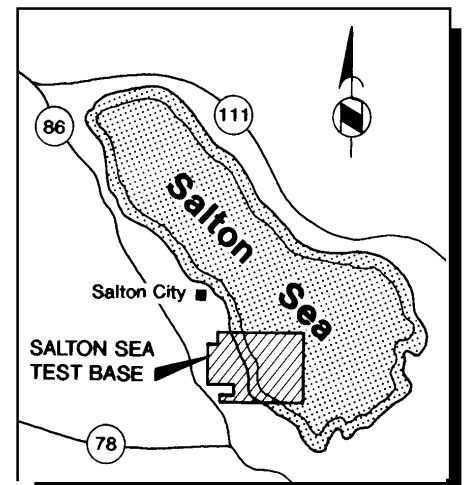
DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

## INTRODUCTION

This fact sheet is the third in a series designed to inform the local community and other public members of the U.S. Navy's plans for formally closing the facility and addressing environmental concerns at Salton Sea Test Base (SSTB). The first fact sheet (October 1993) was an overview of SSTB Installation Restoration (IR) Program and environmental restoration sites. The second fact sheet (July 1994) was an update of the status of the IR Program, information on the Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1988 (BRAC I), and the SSTB Restoration Advisory Board. These fact sheets are available at the local information repositories. (see back for locations).

This fact sheet provides information on activities ongoing at SSTB. In order to formally close SSTB and make the property available for reuse, environmental restoration (cleanup) must be completed. Although the SSTB Environmental Baseline Survey Report identified parcels that could be considered clean of environmental contaminants, a caveat was placed on the entire base due to the potential for unexploded ordnance. The plan for addressing ordnance at SSTB is to assess whether potentially unexploded ordnance is present. If identified, unexploded ordnance will be disposed of in a manner which is sufficiently protective of human health and the environment. In addition to addressing the ordnance issue at SSTB, the demolition and removal of some buildings is being completed. The public

is reminded that SSTB is U.S. Government property and is off limits until it is cleared for reuse.

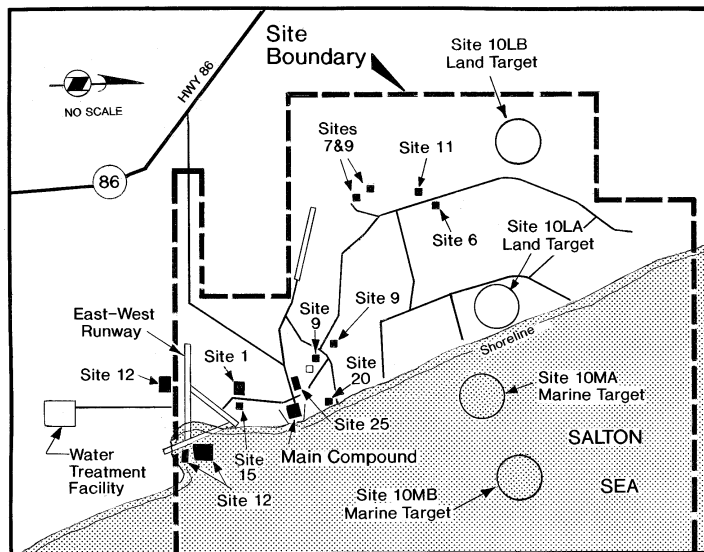


## UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE

The Navy's Explosive Ordnance Disposal team conducted an ordnance survey and sweep of SSTB in 1986. However, visits to SSTB in September 1993 and January 1994 confirmed the presence of ordnance from recent military training exercises. Numerous impact craters, shrapnel, and other ordnance remnants have been located in various areas around the base. The collective identification of these areas has been called Installation Restoration Program Site 24. The following types of expended ordnance were encountered during these visits:

- Mortar Rounds
- Bullets
- Rockets
- Fuses
- Illumination Flares

Because the base was used as a training ground for limited live-fire exercises, both expended and potentially unexploded ordnance may be present at SSTB. Due to the uncertainty of this potential danger, the entire land portion of SSTB will require further evaluation for the presence of ordnance. Currently an ordnance survey of the base is being conducted. The results of this survey will be available in late 1995. For public safety, the base should be considered a danger and is off limits until the evaluation is complete.



■ Building No. 4033, associated with Installation Restoration Program Site 6, the Instrument Laboratory Leach Line; and

■ The Warehouse near Installation Restoration Program Site 25.

Building No. 4033 was constructed in 1949 and was the coordination center and command post for outlying camera-tracking stations.

## BUILDING DEMOLITION

Upon completion of various training exercises, many buildings at SSTB were left in an unsafe condition. In 1993 Naval Air Weapons Center China Lake, then caretaker of SSTB property, performed asbestos abatement and removal and demolition of these buildings. After the asbestos abatement and demolition program was completed, five buildings were left standing.

This October, two of the remaining five buildings were brought down by the U.S. Navy's Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team. They were:

It contained a photographic processing laboratory and a battery reconditioning shop. The warehouse near Site 25 was used to store photographic film. For detailed information on Installation Restoration Program sites, see the July 1994 SSTB Fact Sheet or visit the local information repositories.

A demolition debris removal contract was awarded to Mar-Lyn Builders, Incorporated, from Cherry Valley, California. Mar-Lyn will be working through December 1994 to remove the numerous debris piles at SSTB. Due to potential dangers presented by debris, as well as debris removal activities, the public is reminded to stay off SSTB property until it is cleared for reuse.

## Information Repositories

Information Repositories for the SSTB cleanup project have been established at two locations in the area so that the local community has an opportunity to review project document and reports:

### Salton City Library

2098 Frontage Road (Hwy 86)  
Salton City, CA  
(619) 394-4446

Hours: Mon-Wed-Fri  
8:00 a.m. - noon  
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

### Spencer Library Media Center

Imperial Valley College  
Aten Road/Hwy 111  
Imperial, CA  
(619) 355-6377

Hours: Mon - Thurs: 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
Fri: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Sat: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
(except holidays)

## For More Information

### Mike Radecki

Remedial Project Manager  
Southwest Division  
Naval Facilities Engineering Command  
1220 Pacific Highway, Code 1832.MR  
San Diego, CA 92132-5190  
(619) 532-2450

### Celeste Albanez

Public Participation Specialist  
Department of Toxic Substances Control  
245 West Broadway, Suite 425  
Long Beach, CA 90802  
(310) 590-5561

## MAILING LIST

### Mike Radecki

Remedial Project Manager  
Southwest Division Naval Facilities  
Engineering Command  
1220 Pacific Hwy., Code 1832.MR  
San Diego, CA 92132 - 5190

- ☐ Please DELETE my name from the SSTB mailing list
- ☐ Please ADD my name to the SSTB mailing list

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

*If you would like to either remove your name from or add your name to the SSTB mailing list, please fill out the coupon at left and return it by mail to the address shown above.*

*Thank you!*

## DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

Southwest Division  
Naval Facilities Engineering Command  
1220 Pacific Highway, Code 18  
San Diego, CA 92132-5190